

CLICK
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MISUSE OF TOURIST CABINS:

ONLY BY REGULATION CAN THE "COUPLE
TRADE" VICE BE ENDED

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A FEW years ago, when the Sociology Department of Southern Methodist University made a survey on the misuse of urban tourist camps, it was but a recently developed phenomenon of American life. Startling facts, proving that a new haven for illicit love had sprouted in the outskirts of cities, were revealed. One might think that the public, aware of this new evil, would remedy it. Instead, tourist camps became more and more prevalent; today there are thousands of auto camps throughout the country where many couples have gone wrong.

There are legitimate tourist camps catering to travelers, but according to head G-Man J. Edgar Hoover, there are at least several thousand camps whose proprietors will not refuse the use of their camps for immoral purposes. To many of those who run such camps, the illegitimate business of renting out cabins to unmarried couples is known as the "couple trade." It pays better than regular transient hotel business for these reasons: Guests use the cabins only a short time, making them available for others; a steady, repeat business follows; the sale of contraceptive goods is sometimes an accessory business to the renting of the cabins.

NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE:

By H. L. PRITCHETT

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SINCE the publication of the study conducted by our Department of Sociology at Southern Methodist University into the use of tourist camps for illicit purposes, we have been asked many times, "What has been done to stamp out the evil?" The answer, so far as I know, is NOTHING. Research in sociology is like research in any other science. It is for the purpose of finding out. That is what we did and when we had done that, we merely presented our findings. We do not accept the role of reformer. But the fact that the deplorable situation still exists is indicated by studies made throughout the country by non-partisan groups. J. Edgar Hoover, head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, confirmed it in a recent article in a national monthly—going even farther by pointing out that many tourist camps are habitats for sub rosa love affairs, and also that they are breeding places for crime.

I know that a leading paper in Denver tent out a young woman and a young man, reporters, together. In not a single instance were they refused accommodations in spite of the fact they told these managers that they were not married.

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WHO USE CABINS FOR ILLICIT PURPOSES?

THOSE who misuse tourist cabins must have a girl, a car and the price—ranging from fifty cents to four dollars. Every occupational and economic stratum, with the upper classes relatively more numerous, are included in this clientele. The friendly couples who seek enjoyment at these tiny lodges are so numerous that they make commercialized vice in them a negligible factor. And chances are that the cabins' occupants come from the better residential sections rather than the disorganized areas of a city. The pictograph below represents a cross-section of men who made regular use of auto camps in the outskirts of Dallas, Texas, as compiled by Southern Methodist University's Department of Sociology survey.



SOME CABINS ARE OPEN ONLY TO LEGITIMATE TRAVELERS:



THERE ARE TOURIST CAMPS whose sole purpose is to provide travelers with an overnight resting place. The couples—who must be married—have to register, must bear the scrutiny of the owner or his wife. Such camps have every hotel advantage.



A LEGITIMATE TOURIST CAMP is well furnished, has a complete bathroom with hot and cold running water. The beds are comfortable, neat, clean and serviceable. Occupants have baggage, do not move furtively, for they have nothing to hide. They make plans for their trip, will continue again after a good night's sleep.

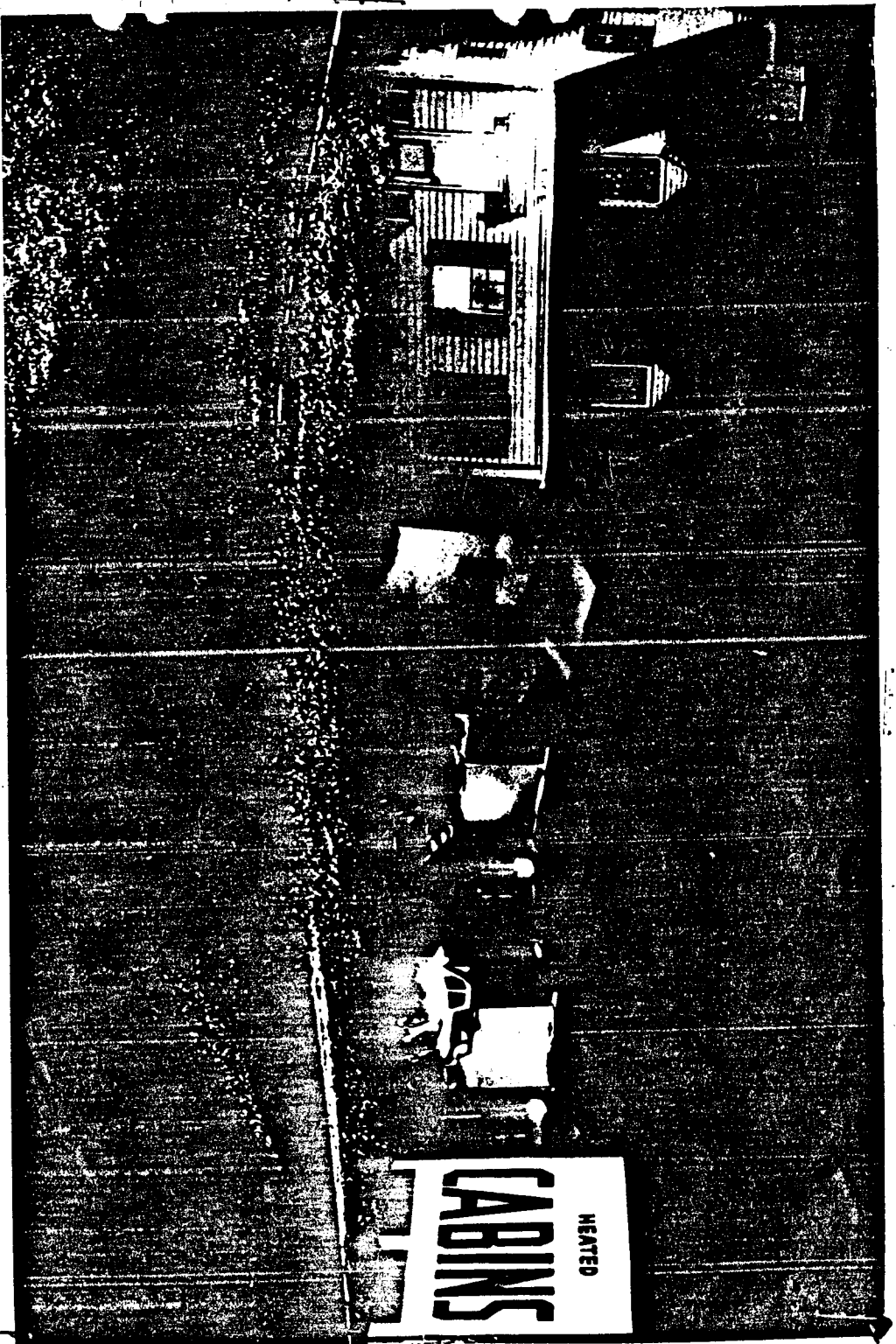
TOURIST CABINS CONTINUED



MISGUIDED GIRLS FROM GOOD FAMILIES do not mind using auto camps for immoral purposes, but they do not like being seen; hence the secrecy, the furtiveness, the running from car to cabin for an interlude of fun, not to rest.

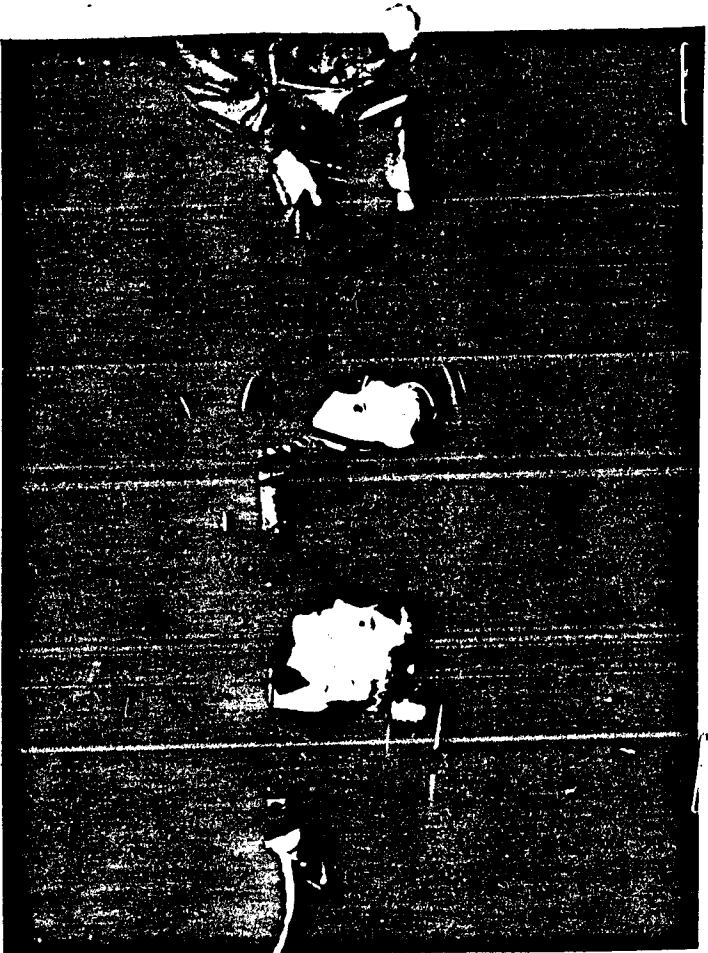
ONCE THEY WERE ALONE, CLICK'S couple purposely left on the light in their four-walled haven, left the shade up, displayed a bottle of liquor near the window to learn whether they would be restrained. No one noticed them except the trailing photographer. Note that the bed is not properly made up for a night's sleep; as soon as they leave, a clean sheet will replace the used one. There is cold running water, no other conveniences in the tiny room. CLICK's researchers found their privacy short-lived. After one hour, a knock came at the door, followed by a query if the cabin was ready for new occupants.





A FEW BECKONING LIGHTS, a telling sign and a tiny cabin is all that is necessary to turn many a young couple off the main road. Dimmed headlights hide the identity of the guests: muffled whispers are evidence

that this is not a hotel for travelers, but a haven for lovers. Throughout the entire country there are auto courts like this one. Some may be larger, better equipped, but most prefer to cater to the "couple trade."



IN OWNER'S FLASHLIGHT BEAMS ON A couple who have gone out to make a survey for CLICK, with a candid cameraman trailing them. They proved that many auto courts are open to unmarried couples. This proprietor does not know who they are; all he is interested in is that they are obviously out for immoral reasons, and since the light reveals no baggage, they will not stay long. Then the porter will hastily arrange the cabin for the next couple.



AFTER CLICK'S COUPLE CAINED ADMITTANCE to the cabin, they noted that a salesman was refused access to the auto court, even though there were a few empty cabins. His baggage was a give-away that he wanted to spend the night there sleeping; the manager had other ideas.